


SMALLPOX: CALIFORNIA'S PUBLIC HEALTH ACTIVITIES

- In response to a request from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), California submitted to the agency on Dec. 2 a draft statewide plan for responding to the potential reappearance of smallpox in California.
- On Dec. 9 California submitted to the CDC a plan for vaccinating health care professionals against smallpox prior to the potential reappearance of the disease.
- The California Department of Health Services (CDHS) is currently working with local health departments in the development of their plans for responding to the potential reappearance of smallpox and vaccinating health care workers and public health response teams prior to the potential reappearance the disease.
- The CDC has asked state and local health departments to expedite their planning activities for the potential reappearance of smallpox.
- Currently, there is no information that suggests that smallpox will be introduced in California now or in the future.
- California's smallpox planning and response is a coordinated effort involving the federal government, state health department and other state agencies, local health departments, hospitals and health care providers.
- The plan builds on the state's experience with disaster response and previous planning efforts for a potential bioterrorism attack. It outlines an infrastructure for detecting and controlling the spread of smallpox. Key components of the plan are training health care workers about smallpox and public communication about the disease.

(Revised Dec. 20, 2002) 



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714 P Street, P.O. Box 942732, Sacramento, CA, ZIP 94234-7320

(916) 657-3064

Internet Address: www.dhs.ca.gov